



SUSSEX AIRCREW ASSOCIATION

SPRING NEWSLETTER 2013

Monthly Meetings

We have had some brave souls at our last three meetings due to cold weather; January's had to be cancelled due to a clash with other functions. In February we welcomed Dick Kharagat from the West Sussex Branch who spoke of his V Bomber experiences and a most interesting exchange tour with USAF. March brought a return of the aviation author, Eddie Crook, who took us through from the birth of flying to modern times.

We are always pleased to be entertained on topics other than aviation and April was particularly rewarding. Roy Nightingale, from the South Coast Ambulance Service which covers Sussex, Kent, and Surrey, took us on a guided tour of the NHS from the initial 999 call to hospital discharge! As Yvonne Aldridge remarked he 'finished up fielding more questions than any other speaker that I can remember'.

Bomber Command Veterans

In preparation for a visit to the Wings Museum at Balcombe most of our Bomber Command Veterans posed for a photograph which is at the end of this Newsletter. The 'Meet the Bomber Boys' event on Saturday April 6 was a great success and raised £1631 in 4 hours towards the upkeep of the Bomber Command Memorial in Green Park. Visitors were queuing at the door to obtain signatures from the Veterans as witnessed in the other photo of John Bell being kept busy! Also use the following links (use Ctrl + Click) to watch short videos of the event (sorry about the commercials)!

<http://www.midsussextimes.co.uk/news/videos-and-slideshows/video-crowds-flock-for-bomber-command-veterans-1-4974814>

<http://www.midsussextimes.co.uk/news/video-bomber-command-veterans-raise-hundreds-for-green-park-memorial-1-4983868>

Membership

Currently we have 56 members but hopefully we have another recruit about to join.

Trips & Visits

Regrettably there was not sufficient interest in a visit to Brooklands/Weybridge so this has been shelved. I do recommend a visit if you have not been - it is under an hour's drive, both the motor and aircraft museums are full of interesting artefacts as well as classic cars and aeroplanes. All the information on their website: www.brooklandsmuseum.com Also a visit to the Mercedes Headquarters whilst you are there is rewarding.

Malcolm Burwood had to scrap his planned trip to France but is going ahead with a few

days in Kent in the Autumn and will let you have the details shortly. He is also considering a trip to Waterloo (the place rather than the station) in time for the anniversary of his late Grace's victory over the French. Again, watch this space and sharpen up your sabres.

The Summer Dinner will be held back at the Dyke Golf Course and Helen Keeling will be letting us have the information for that shortly.

Pub Lunches

The Pub lunch this month will be at the Victory Pub in Staplefield on Tuesday April the 23rd at 1200 midday. The usual request to let either Shaun Casey or Yvonne Aldridge know that you are attending.

It is very important for Shaun to get the numbers right as the Victory is a small pub and it would be nice to be seated together.

Joe Overy



A lovely photo of most of our BC Veterans. From the left, Top Row: John de Hoop, Dave Fellowes, John Langston, George Dunn; Bottom Row: Hal Gardner, Roy Akehurst, Jo Lancaster, Reg Barker (Acknowledgements to The Mid Sussex Times and Photographer Hy Money & Kevin Hunt of the Wings Museum)



John Bell doing his stuff
(Acknowledgements to the Mid Sussex Times & Kevin Hunt of the Wings Museum)